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Governor

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

J. Charles Fox
Secretary

Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend
Lt. Governor

Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Karen M. White
Deputy Secretary

Dear Tributary Team Chairperson,

We are engaged in the development of new Wetland, Stream and Forest Habitat Goals for Maryland's Tributary Strategies. Maryland's commitment to the *Chesapeake Bay 2000 Agreement* includes meeting the Vital Habitat Protection and Restoration goal to ***Preserve, protect and restore those habitats and natural areas that are vital to the survival and diversity of the living resources of the Bay and its rivers.*** By focusing our attention and directing our resources towards habitats, we not only work towards the improvement of water quality, but we also improve the critical support systems required by the Bay's living resources. Maryland's Tributary Teams are an essential part of this effort and we are asking for your active partnership in moving forward with these new habitat goals.

In particular, we need your Team's support in the development of our Stream Habitat Goal. The fundamental framework for building this goal takes a "bottom-up" or "local-scale" approach. Activities that contribute towards the assessment, protection and restoration of stream resources at the individual stream reach or small watershed scale are best articulated by those familiar with the local resources, interests, programs and policies. In order to get these local perspectives, we will be conducting a mass mailing to all Tributary Team local government contacts, Soil Conservation Districts (SCDs) and Regional NRCS offices, Community Watershed Organizations and other Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). They will receive an information packet outlining the Stream Goal objectives and the many different options that can be used to participate in this effort (attached). **This is how we need your help:**

! *Coordinate Stream Habitat Goal Development*

We ask that each Tributary Team appoint a representative that would be responsible for collecting and reporting on the locally derived stream habitat goals generated for their basin. Goal participants (local government, SCDs, NGOs, etc.) would report their goals to this designated

Tributary Team Representative who would then forward the aggregated goal to Christine Conn, Tributary Strategies Habitat Goals Coordinator. The only requirement is a willingness to help and be a part of this innovative Tributary Strategy. This is also an opportunity for your Tributary Team to learn more about the interests and activities of the stakeholders you represent.

Duties: Record information on the Project Inventory Sheet (attached) and return to DNR. Goal respondents with technical questions should be referred to Christine Conn.

Timetable for accomplishing these actions:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>October 1st</i> | Identify Tributary Team Stream Habitat Representative |
| <i>December 1st</i> | Tributary Basin participants report goals to Tributary Team representative |
| <i>December 15^s</i> | Tributary Team delivers aggregated goal to Christine Conn, DNR Goal Coordinator |
| <i>2003 - 2010</i> | Process to be repeated annually for updates and revision |
| DNR Contact: | Christine Conn, Habitat Goals Coordinator 410.260.8792 cconn@dnr.state.md.us |

Other opportunities exist for Tributary Team participation beyond this immediate need to coordinate among our many local partnerships. Here are few ideas to consider, and remember, MD DNR has resources and services to help you get involved in these areas:

! ***Additional roles for Tributary Teams in coordinating stream goal development***

- Request each county and soil conservation district within your basin to set a stream goal.
- Assist counties and soil conservation districts by identifying appropriate stakeholders to participate in setting stream goals.
- Conduct outreach to watershed organizations and other stakeholders on stream goals.
- Make program, policy and funding recommendations to local government and state agencies as necessary to help set and attain stream goals.

! ***Promote public education and involvement***

Citizen's interest in their backyard streams provide the public support necessary to direct programs, policy and funding. Incorporate these interests into your stream habitat goal as part of your Tributary Strategy.

! ***Sponsor a volunteer stream monitoring team***

DNR Contact: Rita Bruckler 410.260.8696, rbruckler@dnr.state.md.us or Dan Boward 410.260.8605
dboward@dnr.state.md.us

! ***Become involved in Maryland's Watershed Management Planning Strategy***

DNR Contact: Catherine Rappe 410.260.8750 cmrappe@dnr.state.md.us

! ***Participate in a Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS)***

DNR Contact: Danielle Lucid 410.260.8726 dlucid@dnr.state.md.us

Please share and discuss these ideas as possible ways to become involved. In order for us to begin our campaign, we need to know who you are appointing as a Stream Habitat Goals representative by October 1st. We appreciate your consideration of this request and hope you view it as an opportunity to further the mission of the Tributary Teams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Verna', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Verna Harrison
Assistant Secretary
Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Programs